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- (71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **MAT-FORSK** [NO/NO]; Norwegian Food Research Institute, Osloveien 1, N-1430 Ås (NO).
- (71) Applicant (*for UG only*): **GARDNER, Rebecca** [GB/GB]; Frank B. Dehn & Co., 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **RUDI, Knut** [NO/NO]; Jonas Wessels vei 29, N-1540 Vestby (NO). **HOLCK, Askild** [NO/NO]; Askeveien 34, N-1430 Ås (NO).
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(54) Title: METHODS OF NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method of simultaneously amplifying a plurality of target sequences within sample nucleic acid which comprises: (a) contacting said sample nucleic acid with one or more primer pairs under conditions which allow hybridisation of the primers to the sample nucleic acid, each primer having a bipartite structure A-B wherein part A is specific for a particular target sequence within the sample nucleic acid and part B is a constant sequence which is common to all primers or is common amongst all forward primers with a different sequence common amongst all reverse primers; (b) performing a first amplification reaction; (c) degrading the bipartite primers or separating them from the amplification products of the first amplification reaction; (d) contacting the amplification products from the first amplification reaction with primers which comprise part B of the bipartite primers or a nucleotide sequence which is substantially identical to part B, under conditions which allow hybridisation of the primers to the amplification products; and (e) performing a second amplification reaction and kits for use in such methods.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

MEDLINE, EPO-Internal, BIOSIS, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Botz, J

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